HORRINGER-cum-ICKWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Community Council meeting held on Monday 25th November 2024

Present: Euan Brierley, Kevin Slingsby, Janice Frost, Simon Allen, Barry Hastings, Steve Bloor, Wendy Cullingworth, Anne Bishop, Richard Glinn, Heather Corbell, Brian Thaxter, Bryan Stokes, Fie Berry, Gordon Hughes, Chris Harrison, Brad Young and Jan Emerson.

1. Apologies.
   Rachel Davies, Parish Council, Adrian Shepherd (NT),

2. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 29th July 2024
   Approved as a true copy. Proposed: Anne Bishop, seconded: Brian Thaxter

3. Matters arising
   None

4. Treasurers' reports

Rachel: Community Council

The Community Council bank account stands at £28,766.73.
The final figures for the bonfire event are not yet available but it was clearly very successful. I am awaiting bank details from the paramedics and a bill from the chef.
Our major item of expenditure recently has been the new fire alarm system. Thanks to the Horringer resident who installed this it cost a very reasonable £5,500.00. There will be a further cost of around £600 for commissioning and service. The Social Club have made a contribution of £500.00.
An asbestos survey has been carried out at a cost of £650.00 net of VAT. The Social Club settled the bill in order to reclaim the tax and have given a contribution of £150.00 towards the survey.
After some effort I received a payment of £59.28 from the owners of the textile bank. This was for the period 1.4.24 – 31.10.24. The rate has now dropped to 1 p per kilo. It really does not seem worth chasing them and producing invoices for this small amount. The problem is apparently a Europe – wide one; textiles are actually very difficult to recycle and there is no money in it.
Switching to another company is likely to have similar consequences. I contacted one other company and they have not replied. My suggestion is that we ask A-Tex to remove their bank and give up on textiles, unless someone comes up with a better suggestion.
STOP PRESS: IT WAS AGREED THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE COLLECTING AT PRESENT AND REVIEW AT A LATER DATE

Janice: Hall account: £34,359.49. An outstanding bill of £101.64 for inspection of fire extinguishers.

5. Hall management.
   *Fire alarm system now complete at a cost of £5,500 and commissioned.
   *Stage surface update: instead of vinyl tiles, which would not be suitable because of 'spring' on the surface, we have chosen to have 5 x 2m strips running front to back in worn oak colour, to be installed on 23rd December and welded in place on the 24th. Strips will also put in to repair broken tiles in front of the bar and kitchen area, and also steps. Many thanks to Simon for his expert advice.

* Asbestos survey: this was recently carried out on the whole premises, including social club. Asbestos was found in the tiles under the carpet in the committee and also on the kitchen ceiling tiles. As these areas will not be disturbed we are considered to be low risk. Report available.
*Heating: various options are being explored but the committee have determined that a new system will be in place by Winter 2025.
*Hall Christmas decorations: Tree will be decorated and put in the lobby. Associations are invited to put decorated panels on the walls. Check on booking calendar for access times.

6. Organisations' reports

LITTLE LOTTIE report to CC 25th November 2024

On track for a surplus of £1,379 for 2024 {2023 £1,450) which means some £16,000 raised in 13 years – prizes are in the region of £17,000 for the same period.

As already intimated Bryan and myself will step down this end of year. The Committee have volunteered Fi Berry to be promoter supported by Kevin and our Deputy Chairman to carry on without interruption in the expectation that this will be only a temporary solution whilst new officials are found.

Bryan and I will ensure the necessary paperwork is attended to. We aim for a seamless handover.

Brian Thaxter
Promoter

Steve Boor - Bowls Club.
The Club members continue to enjoy their bowls on Monday and Thursday afternoons with consistent numbers attending each session.

On 20th October we held our annual club singles and pairs championships over the course of a long day, including a very enjoyable lunch.

Last Thursday we had one of our occasional lunches at Bury Golf Club, which was a very pleasant meal.

Horringer Good Neighbour Scheme Community Council Report 25/11/24
Horringer Good Neighbour Scheme has been the recipient of 2 awards recently:

The first, given to all 41 Good Neighbour Schemes in Suffolk in recognition of the work they do.
The second from Suffolk Community Awards as winner of the CAS (Community Action Suffolk) Voluntary Awards.

On the 8th October we held a 'Keeping People Safe Course for 14 of our members and volunteers here in the Community Centre.

We held our AGM in October when we made 2 amendments to our Constitution: The first to allow the Chair to serve for more than 5 consecutive years providing there was 2/3 agreement from the Committee and 2/3 agreement from members at the AGM. The second was the introduction of an Associate membership for people with connections with the village by belonging to one of our Clubs or Societies, having lived in the village or having close family in the village. The change to the constitution allowed Wendy Cullingworth to continue as Chair – the rest of the Committee is unchanged but with the addition of Sheila Crossley.

We paid tribute to Mel Sheard who passed away at the end of September. He was involved with the GNS for many years as a volunteer as well as serving as Treasurer. He is sadly missed.

Horringer- cum-Ickworth WI

Report from Horringer & Ickworth W.I. re Pop-up Coffee shop equipment.

It was unanimously agreed at our Committee Meeting on Tuesday 19th November that we would recommend to our members that we donate the equipment used by the Pop-up Coffee shop to the Community Council to be made available for all village organisations, including the new Pop-up team. As our December meeting is an open meeting, at the request of the present team we have agreed to delay this until our January meeting when only W.I. members will be present. We do not anticipate any objections from them.

As you may be aware the equipment was purchased in 2016 using a grant of £200 facilitated by Terry Clements from the Locality Budget, specifying that it be used for the benefit of the Horringer community. The Pop-up coffee shop has certainly fulfilled that requirement and is highly valued by us all.

The original cheque for £200 was paid into the W.I. account and used specifically to purchase equipment needed to set up the coffee shop in order to raise funds for the W.I. Centenary commemorations in 2017, proving so successful that the team decided to continue, using the money subsequently raised for charity whilst continuing to provide a valuable service to our community.

The Pop-up Coffee shop has been run under the W.I. "umbrella" which has provided insurance, banking facilities and volunteers from W.I. on a regular basis. The equipment in question has always appeared in our financial accounts as a W.I. asset.

We understand that the CC. Is already in possession of an inventory of the equipment and given that W.I. funds are currently low it is hoped that the C.C. might give consideration to making a donation to us [redacted] in recompense for the transfer of the equipment.

Horringer Church: Heather Corbell

Though have a vacancy for Rector at the moment, a new Rector is appointed who will be in place from the end of January. Her name is **Rev. Anita Rooney,** and she has been, until now, a Curate at the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds. Anita and her husband Kevin are moving into our Rectory in Manor Lane. We are looking forward to Anita's ministry with confidence in God's answer to prayer, especially as Anita has taken some of our services throughout the Benefice during the vacancy. Please join with us in praying for Anita for guidance and inspiration for her teaching and leadership for us.

We need funds to keep the church going – not just in its ministry but also to keep it up as a building. We have quite a list of outstanding things to be done around the church just now. While this is the case, we have a deficit in the funding that we can give as a congregation each month. Many of us do NOT claim for various expenses incurred in the running of the church. We hope to land one or two grants for both outside and inside reparations. WE need to do all we can to help and support the work of the church as well as the building and the heritage in the village.

We have a monthly **Benefice Notice Sheet,** which goes by email to all six churches' electoral roles, some of you probably get this (if you don't, and you would like to get the Notice Sheet, please just let me know).

The Benefice **Pastoral Care** from church continues. Do ask if you would like a visit, or if you know someone who you think would appreciate a visit at their home, or to meet in the village (with their permission). Hospital **Chaplaincy** along with visiting at the King Suite at Glastonbury Court also continues. Just let me know if you think a visit would be appreciated.

We sometimes have food in the church porch for use by everyone, (as anyone has anything to contribute and as any have need).

Recent Events:

Table Top Sale – This went well and raised a fair amount and the **Alice Cotterill Recorder Concert** helped to raise funds .

The Harvest Celebration was on Sunday 20th October from which donations are given away as mission so goods were given to the Gatehouse Food Bank, and cash donations of £274.00 to the Bury Drop-In.

Events coming up:

Christmas Fayre on Saturday 14th December 2.00 until 4.00 IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE. Please see the attached poster... please support this occasion.

The annual Church lecture has been postponed – a new date will be advised in the Spring. The speaker will be Sir Terry Waite. There will be a buffet meal at 6.00 followed by the Talk at 7.00. This will be in the Community Centre, and tickets will be £20.00, (& £15.00 for under 18s). This will be not only about his own experience as a hostage but also with a look at the present situation in the Middle-East.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

1. **CHRISTINGLE service – this Sunday, 1st at 11.00**
2. **THE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS switch on – Friday 6th December with carols, mulled wine, juice and mince pies.**
3. **STARS AND LIGHTS FESTIVAL in the church from 7th to 17th December.**
4. **CAROL SERVICE on Sunday 15th December at 11.00.**
5. **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE on Wednesday 25th December at 11.00.**

The church is always a good place to be – it's normally open each day and all are welcome to come in, and all are welcome to **all** our activities, of course! Come on any Sunday at **11.00**. and enjoy refreshments following each service. Occasionally services are elsewhere in the Benefice – check the Benefice Notice Sheet.

Though this is all positive, we are not complacent, please pray for the church, and please support us.

Churches Together (to which we are affiliated):

Look out for our weekly comment column in the Bury Free Press, which some of you will have seen. It is usually near the beginning of the 'Community' section. It represents a wide range of topics and views, and we have a disclaimer that the views expressed are not always the views of every individual person within Churches Together. This column represents several Christian denominations.

The work of the Bury Drop-In is continuing to be vital, as well as individual cases of help for several people. They are grateful for the prayer and financial support of churches.



Up-date: It costs £90,000 p.a to run! They have currently 150 signed up guests and are serving 50 meals x2 weekly. They provide homeless people and rough sleepers with showers, dry-cleaning, sleeping bags and tents. They also assist with hospital and prison release, and counselling.
They serve West Suffolk citizens – these are not in-comers! Some are domestic abuse and redundancy victims. Others who turn up they help to return to their home community.
The BD-I needs funds and volunteers.

RECENT EVENTS:

Churches Together AGM. On 23rd September '24. The present team of officers were re-elected, apart from the change of Treasurer and co-ordinator of the BFP Weekly Column:
New Treasurer: Frank Leung (Cathedral) and Column co-ordinator: Stephen Jarrold ('Inclusive' Church, Horringer Court). The post of website manager remains unfilled at present.
A forum with the new Bury MP – **Peter Prinsley MP.** took place on 17th October, at Bridge Church.
The annual Exchange of Greetings – we are part of this, Andrew and Stephen from Westley Community Church came to Nowton last Sunday, November 3rd. and I visited Westley C.C. yesterday.

UP-COMING EVENTS

'Shine Your Light' events w/e Friday 13th- Sunday 15th Dec. '*We are having **public carol singing** in the **Town Centre outside 'Superdrug' on Sunday 15th December at 2.15 pm.** (to coincide with an extra Christmas market on that day in town). **Do support this effort,** 'We appreciate the early afternoon start might mean a bit of a rush after attending church in the morning, but as we have been given this wonderful opportunity to share the good news of the Christmas message, we want to use it to bless many people in town who, otherwise, might not hear about Jesus. There is a craft fair in town on December 15th, so we hope there will be plenty of people around. This is an **outreach event**, as we take this opportunity to bring the true meaning of Christmas to those we meet. We will be singing well known carols and inviting passers-by to join us. We will be giving out song sheets which also include a powerful testimony and a further explanation of Christmas which we hope people will take and read at home. We will also have copies of the New Testament available for anyone who asks.'*
Prayer breakfast 7th. Dec. – venue not yet confirmed.

Next Churches Together Meeting – Monday 13th January '25 - venue not yet confirmed.

In the new year the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** will begin with an 'agape' meal and a launch service on **Sunday 19th January '25** at **Garland Street Baptist Church.**

Prayer evening 5th February 7.00 pm at **Southgate Church.**

There is a thought to trial having the **Abbey Gardens Summer Celebration on a Saturday and the projected date for 2025 is Saturday 28th June.**

Churches Together is an affiliation not just of 50 churches, but also of local inter-denominational organisations: CAP (debt counselling), Bury Town Pastors, The Bury Drop-In, Fairtrade, the West Suffolk Hospital Chaplaincy, Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, Bury Christian Youth, and various food banks.

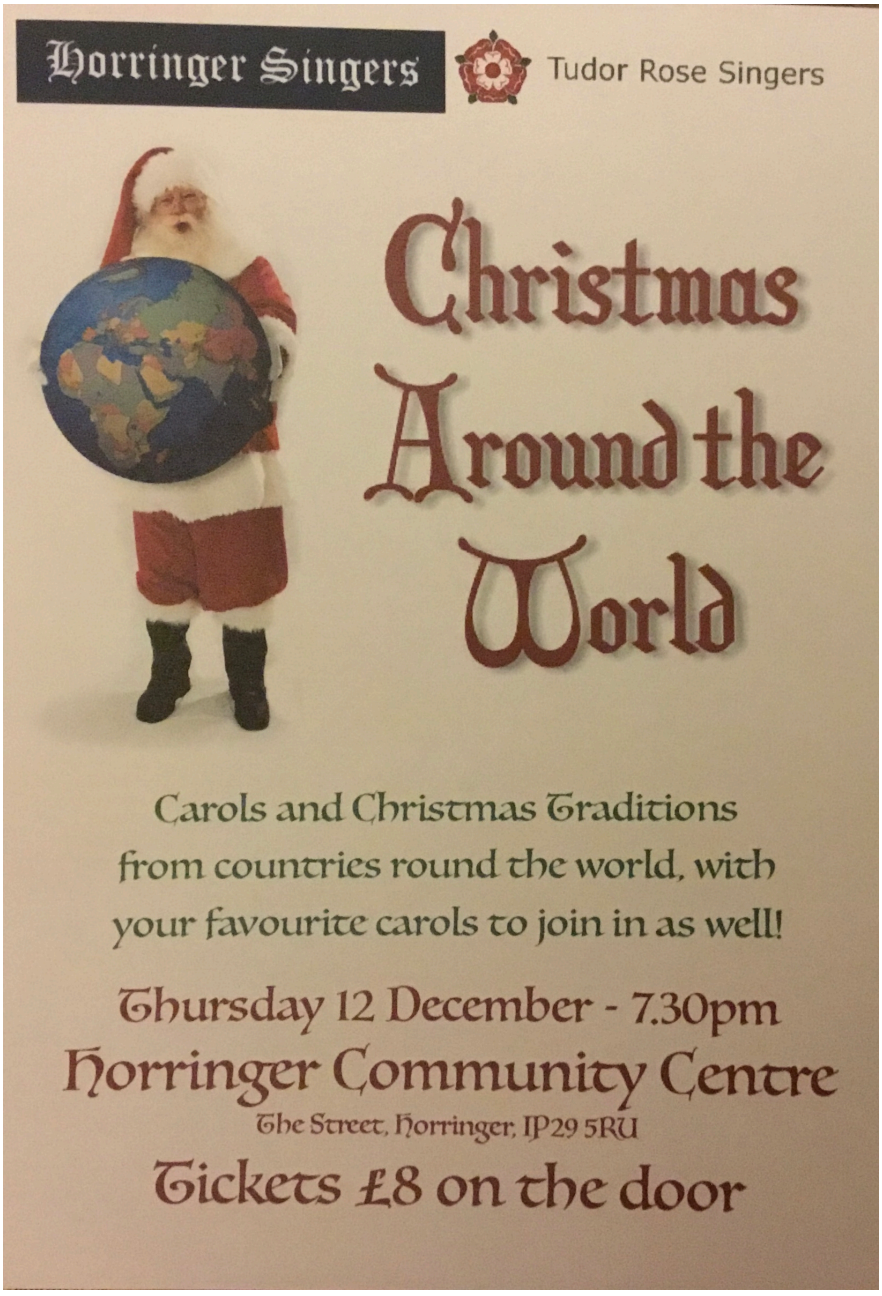
Though we here are a village, we use and need our town, and we can be part of the town's Christian life too.

Horringer Gardening Club Report

Firstly a few words about Mel Sheard who passed away recently. He was very active in the Horticultural Society for may years as an ordinary and committee member and from 2000 to0 2013 as chairman. Apart from his own garden he was passionate about the Flower Show, winning many prises but also an enthusiastic and energetic organiser of the Show itself. He showed us the way it should be done.
As reported at the last meeting this year's Flower Show was considered to be successful. As an indication of the post-pandemic growth in the show - in 2022 there were 97 exhibits with 17 people entering. In 2023 there were 127 exhibits from 21 entrants and in this year 198 exhibits from 33 entrants.
Sue Kent's talk on 4th October was a sell-out. In "My Evolving Garden" she describes how she designed a garden layout and selected planting that she could manage with her not inconsiderable handicap. She delivered a dynamic and entertaining talk with a general message – design your garden to suit your own situation and limitations and don't go beyond that.
This month our speaker was Dawn Fisher who talked about ponds. This included such things as how to set the depth of pond shelving to suit the water plants you intend to use and how to keep algae at bay by planting to reduce water nutrition. Her plant sales were popular. At this talk we trialled the running of a computerised version of a raffle rather than the paper ticket type.

The Club's AGM will be held in January (date tba) and our first speaker evening in the new year will be on Monday 10th February when Joe Bagley will talk on "House Plants – The House Plant Doctor". This will be followed by our first ticketed event of the year on 10th March when Nick Bailey (of Gardeners' World) will speak on "365 Days of Colour".

HORRINGER SINGERS - CHRISTMAS CONCERT THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.30pm - Kevin Slingsby.



Come and hear carols from around the world, as well as joining with some popular carols of our own. Mince pies and wine/soft drinks served.

Our Holy Week concert will be on Wednesday 16th April in the church, which will be a performance of 'Gethsemane to Calvary'.

We are always looking for new members. Singing is good for you! Come and try any Thursday evening in term time at 7.30pm in the hall. You will be made very welcome!

7. National Trust

Apologies for not being able to join you, today is my son's 18th birthday.

Future Plans

It was wonderful to welcome some of you to our 'Future Plans' community session on 12th November. We are carrying out some feasibility and planning work to improve our arrival, parking, play offer and access into the wider estate. Gathering views from our visitors, staff, volunteers and the local community is something we are invested in – we want to make any development meet the needs of as many people as possible. There will be further sessions in 2025.

Community

Some of you may have met Daisy and Jules, our Volunteering & Community's team as they have been attending some village events. They have also been heavily involved with West Suffolk College for some time. Early next year we are setting up a series of extended projects with the college, providing lectures and an opportunity for them to give presentations to staff.

I continue to be involved in the Neighbourhood Planning Committee. It is a privilege to contribute to the village in this way.

Programming

October half-term. We increased our offer for families in half-term, the highlight of which was introducing crazy golf in the Gallery which was a great success.

Christmas. Following last year's Staged Splendour spectacle, we are once again dressing the Rotunda on a grand scale. This year we are celebrating the European tours that the family went on, with our theme being 'Christmas On The Continent'. With support from a company who create theatre sets, there will be a large boat in the entrance hall, the French Alps and a Bavarian hut! All with Christmas decorations too. We also have a Christmas trail and a Santa Show for families and evening opening for shopping and food.

Projects & Works

Porter's Lodge. We are in the process of redesigning and improving the seating area behind Porters Lodge. There will be more seating, with more of it accessible.

Earl's Summerhouse in the Walled Garden. Work has just been completed to secure the cellar to the building and will then move on to replacing brickwork, plastering and iron work. The summerhouse will be open to visitors by late Spring.

Electronic charging. This is due to be installed in our car park in Spring next year. There will be 4 charging bays.

Next year. During the course of 2025 we will be introducing a significant new raft of seating across the gardens and parkland to help people to break up their journeys and dwell and enjoy the views. We will also begin work to conserve the monument.

Woodland

As you may have seen, this summer we removed a large block of diseased ash trees. We aim to fell them when 50% of the canopy has been affected by disease so that much of the trunk is still viable for wood chipping which is used in our biomass boiler. Although this disease is causing devastation, the area that we have felled this year has been planted with broadleaf species and has now been fenced off so that this rich woodland can grow. In time it will provide wonderful new habitat.

Please let your neighbours know that we offer a community pass to Horringer and Chevington residents. This costs just £5 and entitles you to visit Ickworth as many times as you wish.

Adrian Shepherd

General Manager, Ickworth Estate National Trust

8. Fireworks review
   A fine evening with a large number of people attending. A few tweaks (separate queues for food and drinks?) required for next year but overall very successful. Euan has organised a meeting in the hall on 10th December at 7.30pm to discuss.

9. Diary
   Going to press next week. We still need more help on the production side. It is still 'a work in progress' but we are seeing results.

10. Forthcoming events
    Village Quiz and Supper - Friday 30th November, 6.30pm for 7pm start.
    WI - National Ballroom Dancing, Tuesday 3rd December - 7.30pm
    Pop Up Coffee Shop - Thursday 5th December (10.00am to 12.00pm)
    Christmas Tree Light Up - Friday 6th December on green 4.30pm with Ickworth School Choir - Star and Light Festival with mulled wine after in church.
    Film Club Friday 6th December - 'A Christmas Carol' - 7pm in hall.
    Horringer Singers Christmas Concert - Thursday 7.30pm Community Centre. 'Christmas Around the World'

11. Any other business
    Jan will liaise with Jessie Bugg regarding the Ickworth School Choir'performance at the Christmas Light Up with the choir singing after the lights are switched on.

    Because of some problems last year Euan will buy a new set of coloured lights at a cost of £50.

    Neighbourhood plan: Brad and Janice say they are involved in preparing a social survey for the village.

    Gordon is involved with maintenance of the Scout Hut. He says there is a new scoutmaster and Catherine runs the Beavers.

    Wendy Cullingworth brought the award, trophy, etc presented to the Good Neighbour's Scheme for excellence. She asked if it could be displayed in a small glass fronted cabinet in the hall, a suitable place being under that of the Bowls Club trophies. This was readily agreed to and the members congratulated the group.

    As the current team of the highly successful Pop Up Coffee mornings are retiring after eight years, we thank them for all their hard work, delicious cakes and the money raised for many local charities. Lisa and Ruth Walker have offered to take up the challenge for the future, not under the WI but are hoping that various local charities and groups will volunteer to help organise the mornings, etc. Lisa and Ruth have asked if the CC could supply new aprons with an HCC logo? This has been agreed willingly.

    Brian Thaxter and Bryan Stokes are handing over the running of the Little Lottie Draws to a new temporary committee. Thanks were expressed for the amazing amount of money they have raised over the last ten years or so for the Community Council funds. Hopefully the draw results will continue to be announced at the Pop Up Coffee mornings, which has proved a good place for recruitment of members.

Gordon asked if the old curtains which have been replaced by blinds are still available as the Scouts could use them. Kevin said that several old woodwormed tables were used for the bonfire and that several small old redundant tables have been found a new home.

Tributes were paid to Mel Sheard, who recently died. He was a long standing resident of Horringer and held many positions in the community, latterly being involved with the Garden Club as committee member, Chairman, very keen and successful gardener and organiser of the former Horticultural Shows. He will be much missed.

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The next Community Council will be on Monday 24th February at 7.30pm